Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Will the Government be pleased to consider that when the next year's Budget is prepared?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Yes.

Price of petrol in the State

120. Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(a) the approximate quantity of petrol purchased by the Government for their use in 1108;

(b) from which importing company was the purchase made;

(c) what was the range of prices per gallon in the year 1108;

(d) was petrol available in the State for prices lower than that at which Government purchased it during the year;

(e) are the Government aware that the importing companies are not allowed by the British Government to sell petrol above a certain rate per gallon in places to which petrol is imported by steamer;

(f) will not the restriction apply to Ernakulam;

(g) is there not a sort of price-war in Ernakulam in the sale of petrol going on even now?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—(a) 9,436 gallons.

(b) The purchase was made from the Agents of the Burma Shell Co.

(c) The price in Ernakulam ranged from Rs. 1—1—3 to 1—9—6 per gallon bulk.

(d) No.

(e) No information is available.

(f) Do

(g) The Burma Shell now sell petrol at Rs. 1—1—3 and the Western India Co. at 1—4—6 per gallon bulk.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—At what price was this 9,436 gallons purchased?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—A portion of the quantity was purchased at Re. 1—1—3 and the rest at Rs. 1—9—6.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Was the purchase at Rs. 1-1-3 made at the fag end of the year 1108?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—As soon as the price fell we started purchase.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—When was it please?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—I think it was when the Russian Petrol came.

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Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—With reference to sub-division (e), Sir. The question is are the Government aware that the importing companies are not allowed by the British Government to sell petrol above a certain rate per gallon in places to which petrol is imported by steamer. The answer is 'no information is avail'. Will the Government be pleased to find out the information?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Yes.

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval.—As matters now stand I hope we have no control over the fixing of price?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—No.

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